

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

FACT SHEET

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
(NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0005932)
I.D. No. 1B80051OMEN**

FOR

**MENDOCINO FOREST PRODUCTS COMPANY, LLC,
UKIAH SAWMILL COMPLEX**

Mendocino County

1. Order No. 96-32, adopted by the Regional Water Board on September 26, 1996, established Waste Discharge Requirements and serves as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the Mendocino Forest Products Company, LLC, Ukiah Sawmill Complex, located at 850 Hollowtree Road, Ukiah, California. The company is splitting the complex into two operations under two different subsidiaries – the pressure treating facility under Mendocino Wood Specialties (MWS), and the rest of the sawmill under Mendocino Forest Products (MFP). This permit will cover the MFP mill, while the MWS facility has applied for coverage under the Industrial Storm Water General Permit system because all they discharge is storm water.
2. A Report of Waste Discharge was submitted by the MFP (hereinafter permittee) on February 9, 2001. The action before the Regional Water Board would renew the expired permit. This permit serves to regulate log deck sprinkling water that is collected in a pond and then recirculated. During periods of heavy rain, the pond occasionally overflows and discharges into Hensley Creek at latitude 123° 12' W, longitude 39° 12' N (Sampling point 001).
3. Effluent limitations are derived from the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) objectives for pH for the Russian River, and from the Basin Plan prohibition on acute toxicity.
4. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (also known as the State Implementation Plan or SIP) on March 2, 2000. All provisions of the SIP became effective as of May 22, 2000. The SIP applies to discharges of toxic pollutants into the inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries of California subject to regulation under the state's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7 of the California Water Code) and the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The SIP establishes: (1) implementation provisions for priority pollutant criteria promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) through the National Toxics Rule (NTR) and through the California Toxics Rule (CTR), and for priority pollutant objectives established by Regional Water Boards in their basin plans; (2) monitoring requirements for 2,3,7,8-TCDD equivalents; and (3) chronic toxicity control provisions.

5. Insufficient background data exist to determine whether any of the priority pollutants are, or may be, discharged at a level that will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any state water quality standard. A 13267(b) Order was issued in accordance with the SIP requiring the permittee to obtain the data. After the data are gathered, the reasonable potential analysis will be performed and the permit reopened to include additional numerical limitations, if necessary.
6. The Russian River is listed as an impaired water body for sediment and turbidity pursuant to Section 303(d) of the CWA. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has not been established to address these loadings, but TMDL development is scheduled for 2013. The permittee's discharge contains sediment and turbidity levels which could cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an increase in sediment and turbidity levels in the Russian River. As there is currently no basis in the Basin Plan for effluent limits for sediment and turbidity, limits will not be set until sediment loads to inland surface waters are addressed Region-wide. However, staff will continue to monitor the loading of sediment and nutrients in the watershed and from this facility. Additional controls on these pollutants may be required if necessary in order to achieve water quality objectives.
7. Receiving water limitations are derived from the Basin Plan narrative Water Quality Objectives for inland surface waters, enclosed bays, and estuaries.
8. Monitoring for turbidity, total suspended solids, settleable solids, pH, dissolved oxygen, and temperature is required once per month during a storm event. Samples are collected from the storm water discharge point, as well as at an upstream point, a downstream point, and a sample is collected from Hatchery Creek to help gauge the influence of that tributary on the downstream sample constituents.
9. Testing for chronic toxicity is required once during the life of the permit. Testing for acute toxicity is required once per year.
10. Copies of the draft permit may be obtained by contacting the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, at the address above.
11. For any additional information or questions in this matter, please contact:

Mark Neely
Associate Engineering Geologist
Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Telephone No. (707) 576-2689

September 9, 2002